

CLAIMS: We claim:

1. The floor protection system is an improvement over prior art. Prior art consists of (a) absorbing material placed in a base unit with hinged cover positioned directly under the anticipated liquid spills, (b) absorbing cloths or absorbent mats placed under and around the expectant liquid spills and (c) a system of a base unit holding an absorbent pad placed at one end (above or below) of a drain board. This last prior art depends upon the angulation built into the base unit to have the liquid flow properly into the absorbent pad.

Specifically, in (a), the hinged cover must be cleaned or rinsed during maintenance. The design of the cover's grille area requires treatment with environmentally contaminating silicone compounds, or the like, to promote flow of urine to the absorbent pad. The height of the base unit creates a trip and fall hazard. Users must stand on the cover, thus, cross-contamination occurs from contact with shoes.

Whereas, the floor protection system's cartridge-top with its mated absorbent core, is disposed during maintenance with no cleaning or rinsing needed. Hands never touch the soiled core during disposal. The cartridge-top needs no special silicone or other compound, treatment to promote the flow of liquids to the absorbent core. The front edge of the cartridge-top is beveled to reduce trip and fall hazards. Users are not required to stand on the top thereby greatly reducing cross-contamination.

2. The floor protection system is an improvement over prior art, specifically, in (b), the absorbent material forms an uncovered mat under and around anticipated liquid spills. The users stand directly in the liquid and the foot traffic carries the fluid (urine, in the case of restrooms) to other areas creating continual cross-contamination. In restaurants, employees will carry the urine to the kitchen. Additionally, as in (a), there is no way to avoid directly touching the urine when disposing the mat.

Whereas, the floor protection system eliminates standing directly in the liquid (urine, in restrooms). The absorbent core containing the liquid, is protected from foot traffic by the cartridge-top above it. Hence, little or no liquid is carried elsewhere, preventing cross-contamination. Again, unlike (a) and (b), the invention allows disposal of the core without touching it directly.

3. The floor protection system is an improvement over prior art, specifically, in (c), the base unit is essentially designed for a flat surface to operate correctly. A surface sloped toward the wall behind the urinal allows (c) to perform as planned. However, nearly all restroom floors slope to a drain located toward the middle of the room, thus negating the proper operation of (c). Moreover, in such floor conditions, the design of (c) causes the flow of urine to overflow the front edge of the mat, which accentuates, rather than alleviates, the cross-contamination problem. The wide application of (c) as a viable product is very questionable.

Whereas, the floor protection system invention eliminates the need for definite angulation of the base unit. The invention, by design, operates properly on flat and all reasonably sloped surfaces. Placement of it against the back wall and under a urinal provides unmatched floor protection. It extends from the back wall over 50cm with most urinals reaching no more than 45cm from the wall.

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